

A NEW GENUS OF EUPLECTINI FROM CALIFORNIA

(Coleoptera: Pselaphidae)

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The following account is an addition to the pselaphid fauna of the western United States resulting from an intensive search for micro-coleoptera of the lesser known families made in partial conjunction with the California Insect Survey.

Tetrascapha Schuster and Marsh, new genusType of genus: *Tetrascapha dasycerca* Schuster and Marsh, new species.

This genus is distinguished by the following combination of characters: (1) Antennae eleven segmented, not geniculate, the last three segments forming a club; (2) Head without frontal rostrum; (3) Vertex with two, small, nude, perforate foveae; (4) Ventral surface of head with few monaxial, non-capitate setae; (5) Pronotum with lateral sub-basal teeth; disk sub-basally trifoveate, one near each marginal tooth and one median; four basal longitudinal carinae; (6) Prosternum medially tumid; (7) Subhumeral fovea and epiplural sulcus of elytron absent; (8) Seven visible sternites in the male and six in the female; male with sexual modifications of the third ventral and fourth and fifth dorsals; (9) Mesocoxae contiguous; (10) Tarsi of three segments, the first small, the last two elongate with the second longest, the third bearing a long claw and distinct accessory.

Tetrascapha dasycerca Schuster and Marsh, new species

Male. Head 0.33 mm. long \times 0.37 mm. wide; pronotum 0.41 \times 0.39; elytra 0.70 \times 0.71; total length 1.83 mm.

Integument rufotestaceous, sparsely punctate; vestiture short, fine. *Head* with large eyes of about forty facets; tempora rounded angulate, two times eye width; median cervico-occipital carina extending apically, terminating in a small depression slightly posterior to vertexal foveae; two, small, nude, vertexal foveae anterior to posterior margin of eyes, separated by two times the distance from fovea to eye; vertexal foveae connected by a shallow impression extending between antennal tubercles; antennal tubercles distant, moderately developed; antennae verticillate, club as illustrated (Fig. 2); frons gently convex; maxillary palpi as illustrated (Fig. 3); ventral surface of head with fine, apically decumbent, non-capitate setae and a small apical depression bisected by a median longitudinal carina. *Pronotum* widest before middle; lateral margins smooth, not crenulate; small sub-basal tooth near each lateral basal angle; disk trifoveate, two, large, nude foveae located anterior to lateral teeth; a small, nude, median fovea at the basal fifth; strong median sulcus extends from median fovea to base; median sulcus bordered by two short carinae, two longer carinae equidistant between these and basal angles as illustrated (Fig. 1). *Prosternum* medially

tumid, lacking carina. *Elytra* with prominent, rounded humeri; each elytron with three foveae, median fovea arising at base of entire sutural stria, two lateral foveae at base of common longitudinal impression extending one-fourth elytral length; subhumeral fovea and epipleural sulcus lacking. *Abdomen* with five visible tergites, the first with basal emargination as illustrated (Fig. 4), the fourth apically sinuate, the fifth bearing two dense tufts of setae as illustrated (Fig. 6); seven visible sternites, the first six as illustrated (Fig. 5), the third with a distal transverse median laminate structure, the seventh a longitudinal penial plate. Genitalia as illustrated (Fig. 7). Legs with tibiae distally enlarged but lacking structural modifications; tarsal claw of prothoracic leg cleft.

Female. As in the male but lacking the sexual abdominal characters and with only six visible sternites; claw of proleg not cleft.

Holotype male taken from leaf litter at MENDOCINO, MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA on October 10, 1954 by J. R. Helfer. Additional specimens in the type series, all from Mendocino County, were taken by J. R. Helfer on the following dates: Little River, 14♂♂, 27♀♀, May 3, 1955; Mendocino, 3♂♂, 1♀ Oct. 20, 1954, 1♀ May 25, 1955.

The male holotype is deposited in the California Academy of Sciences; paratypes in the collection of Orlando Park, the California Insect Survey, and the California Academy of Sciences.

This genus is most closely allied to the Trogastrina by virtue of contiguous metacoxae, accessory tarsal claws, and no frontal rostrum. Other characters shared with *Oropus* of the above mentioned subtribe are a pronotum armed with small subbasal lateral teeth and modifications of the fourth tergite in the male.

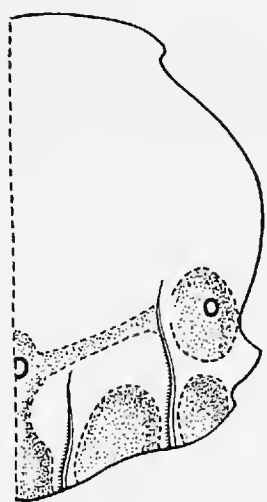
Further relationship is to be found with the new subtribe Trisignina of Park on the basis of similar tarsal claws and meso and meta coxae but differing in having a simple prosternum, six sternites in the females, and no subhumeral foveae.

One other characteristic of note, namely the laminate modification on the third sternite of the male, is somewhat reminiscent of an identical structure in *Morius*, presently a far removed genus in the Rhinoscepsina.

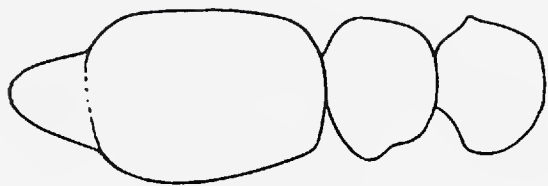
Unless the present status of the Trogastrina is enlarged to accommodate this genus, such characters as seven sternites in the

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

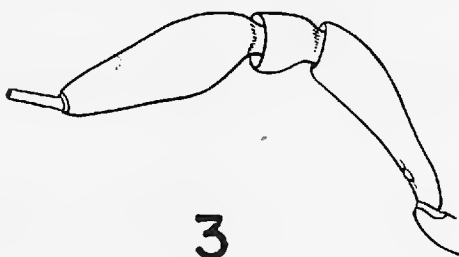
Figs. 1-7, male of *Tetrascapha dasycerca* Schuster and Marsh, new species. Fig. 1, pronotum. Fig. 2, antennal club. Fig. 3, maxillary palpus. Fig. 4, first visible tergite. Fig. 5, first six visible sternites. Fig. 6, fifth visible tergite. Fig. 7, lateral aspect of genitalia.



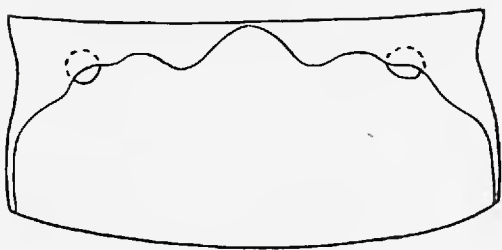
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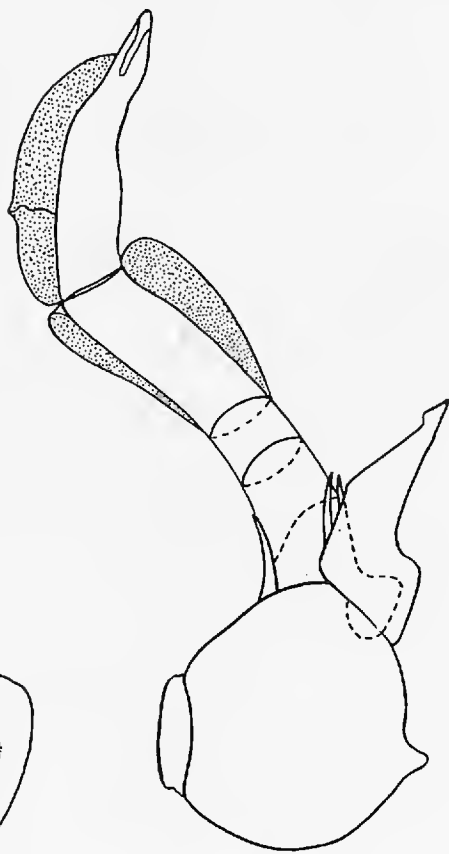
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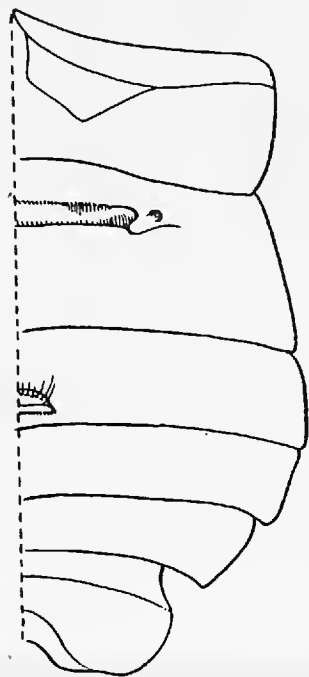
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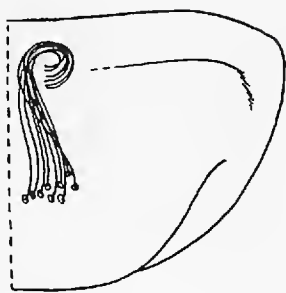
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male, a lack of subhumeral fovea, a few non-capitate hairs on the ventral surface of the head, and four parallel basal pronotal carinae would seemingly warrant a new subtribal status. However, until such a time when the Euplectini *sensu latiore* are further studied, this genus is tentatively placed near the Trogastrina.

ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE: NOTICE OF PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS IN CERTAIN CASES FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF CONFUSION AND THE VALIDATION OF CURRENT NOMENCLATORIAL PRACTICE. (A.(N.S.) 37)

Notice is hereby given that the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers is involved in applications relating to the under-mentioned names included in Parts 6 and 7 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, which will be published on 28th June, 1957:

(a) *Application in Part 6 of Volume 13*

(1) *Oeobia* Hubner, [1825]: and its emendation *Oebia*, suppression of (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) (Z.N.(S)1149).

2. Attention is also drawn to the proposed adoption of *Declarations*: (a) clarifying and extending the provisions of the "Code of Ethics" (Z.N.(S)763); (b) determining the gender to be attributed to generic names having the terminations "-ides," "-ites" and "-oides" (Z.N.(S)951); (c) clarifying the procedure to be adopted when a specific name is published in an abbreviated form (Z.N.(S)1042); (d) clarifying certain problems arising in connection with names published in works written in Latin (Z.N.(S)1223).

3. The present Notice is given in pursuance of the decisions taken on the recommendation of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, July 1948 (see Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 4:51-56, 57-59; *ibid* 5:5-13, 131).

4. Any specialist who may desire to comment on any of the foregoing applications is invited to do so in writing to the Secretary to the International Commission (Address: 28 Park Village East, Regent's Park, London N.W. 1, England) as soon as possible. Every such comment should be clearly marked with the Commission's File Number as given in the present Notice, and sent *in duplicate*.—FRANCIS HEMMING, *Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*.